

## Duties of an Accredited Service Officer



## The Michigan Veterans Coalition





## LAST QUARTER PRODUCTIVITY

- VA FILES REVIEWED - 16,501
- PHONE CONTACTS - 28,404
- PERSONAL CONTACTS/INTERVIEWS - 16,461
- RATING BOARD APPEARANCES - 3,764
- COMPENSATION CLAIMS - 6,391
- PENSION CLAIMS – 928
- DIC CLAIMS – 431
- DEATH PENSION CLAIMS – 555
- BURIAL ALLOWANCE CLAIMS – 407
- EDUCATIONAL CLAIMS – 167
- ENROLLMENT TO VAMC – 430
- APPEAL CLAIMS – 1,196
- POWER OF ATTORNEY – 3,643



## RECOVERIES

- Compensation-New Claims - \$18,014,222
- Compensation-Increases in Award - \$24,747,970
- Compensation-Maintained - \$29,579,699
- Pension-New Claims - \$3,079,194
- Pension-Confirmed & Continued - \$4,209,903
- Education Benefits - \$1,034,579
- Miscellaneous - \$1,469,833
- DIC - \$2,426,956
- Death Pension - \$2,455,817
- Burial Allowance - \$52,532
- Total dollars brought back into the State of Michigan 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

**• \$87,070,705**

## OPERATIONS



## OPERATIONS CONTINUED

- 67 Accredited employees
- 42 Field service officers
- Cover 55 Counties out of 83
- Locations include: VAMC's, County Veterans Offices, MI Works, Posts, SOS offices, Vet Centers, Colleges, Veterans Homes, VA CBOC's







Legislative Agenda  
for the  
2015-2016 Legislation Session  
from the  
Commanders Group of Michigan

*MISSION: To maintain a strong and adequate funding for Veteran Services through the Veteran Service Organizations in the State of Michigan*

Priority for the 2015-2016 Legislative Session:

Request for a 1.5% COLA increase in the Veteran Services Grant issued to the Michigan Veterans Coalition by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.

Current budget of approximately \$3,757,000 increase would be \$56,500 for 2015-2016 budget.

Request for funding for 5 more full time Veteran Service Officers and 5 full time support staff

### **Who is the Michigan Veterans Coalition?**

The Michigan Veterans Coalition is made up of 7 Congressionally Chartered Veteran Service Organizations who receive a grant from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Budget. The grant money is used to hire staff and accredited Veteran Service Officers to help veterans and their families seeking help with Veteran Administration benefit claims free of charge.

The 7 organizations are The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of American, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

The coalition receives compensation based on the number of service hours provided in certain areas around the state.

### **Why use the Veteran Service Organizations?**

The veteran service programs are well established, service officers are accredited and the support of their National Organizations allows the claim process to be handled from the

time veterans can get to know them and see them to have their claim processed. We feel we are in need of more service hours in the Southwest Michigan area, the North East Lower Peninsula, and the entire Upper Peninsula. We feel there is room for 5 full time Field Service officers.

We are also in need of more staff at our Detroit offices to handle calls for questions about VA claims in process or wanting to be processed.

### **Direct Digital Control Project**

\$2,000,000

This project is to replace an existing and obsolete Direct Digital Control System (DDC) in the Mann Building as well as install a new DDC in the other two resident buildings that currently do not have it. The existing system is not functioning or communicating with the control front end in most of the areas of the Home and the system is at an 80% fail rate, meaning 80% of the valves have to be manually adjusted to achieve the desired temperatures. The current system is in the Mann resident building which was constructed in 1988. This system is in need of replacement. The Home would also like to install a new DDC system in the McLeish resident building which was constructed in 1975 and the Rankin resident building which was constructed in 1947.

This project will replace and add full DDC system in all resident buildings of the Home. The project will include a new control end and new equipment. It will include all field devices that control outputs and regulate proper air temperatures, water temperatures, and steam control for heating systems as well as commercial kitchen equipment that uses hot water or steam for cooking purposes. This project will achieve total HVAC digital control throughout the facility. It will allow the Home to adjust temperatures in each individual room relative to member desired comfort level and maintain proper member room temperature. Temperature requirements do vary to satisfy member comfort as much as possible. VA standard 38 CFR Ch. 1, 51.100 (i) (6) says facilities must maintain 71-81 degrees F. The 2007 minimum design standards for Health Care Facilities in Michigan Table 6B shows the same temperature range. The GRHV policy 04-02-B1 uses an LARA Licensure STD. Part 13 R325.21320, Rule 1320 and says member areas for heating 75degrees F +/- 1 degree F and for cooling 77 degrees F +/- 1 degree F This takes into consideration all areas for member comfort, dining rooms, activity rooms etc. and is an average of all the areas.

### **McLeish Building Remodel**

\$6,000,000

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is a state veterans home with an authorized nursing bed capacity of 450. As of October 20, 2014, the Home has 92% of its nursing care capacity filled. The Home has had in the past a large bed capacity census due to total of 36 rooms in the McLeish Building being 4-bed rooms and 66 rooms being 2-bed rooms. The Michigan Veterans Home Board of Managers and the GRHV have decided to remodel the 4-bed rooms into semi-private 2-bed rooms and the 2-bed rooms into private 1-bed rooms. There are an additional 18 1-bed rooms in the 37 year old McLeish that will also be remodeled. Living in a room with fewer roommates and larger space will enhance the medical care of our members due to more medical equipment being allowed in the room. This will also give them a greater sense of dignity as they live their life in our care. The entire 38-year-old building is outdated in numerous ways. The nurses stations are not compliant to modern HIPPA standards. The activity rooms and gathering spaces in the building are not adequate for modern needs.

Remodel 120 member rooms in the McLeish Building and Main-1 Courtyard in addition to those already remodeled on the building's second floor. The project will also include the remodeling of 4,200 square feet of hallways, 7 nurses stations, 7 dayrooms, 7 shower rooms and bathrooms throughout the McLeish Building.

**Total cost for the above three items: \$9,700,000**

### **Replacing Main Courtyard Solarium**

\$70,000

*Mission: To support legislation in the State of Michigan that is beneficial to our active military, veterans, and/or their families*

**Priorities for the 2015-2016 Session:**

1. Change the rules/manual for the Civil Service Commission to recognize military experience as professional experience.
2. Advocate legislation to implement a State Veterans Hiring Preference.
3. The Governors priority is TALENT, we should advocate for the State Approving Agency to seek out Licenses and Certification tests that can be approved quickly. Michigan ranks 30 out of 51 states and Washington, D.C. in the number of Licenses and Certification tests approved for GI Bill funds. Michigan has 25 Licenses/Certs approved. We have asked to pass legislation to waive fees at the States expense, why not advocate that the State Approving Agency seek out opportunities that can have licensing and certification tests be approved for GI Bill money. For example, if the department who issues Builder Licenses after a person takes a test is the certified approving agency then veterans who have the GI Bill or VRAP can use that money to fund the test. This could apply to plumbers, mechanical contractors, barbers, or a host of others. Some technology tests and contracting tests can run into the hundreds of dollars, why not allow GI Bill money to take them. Illinois has 384 certs or licenses veterans can use GI Bill money to take the tests, Wisconsin has 221.
4. Now that 5035 and 5036 have passed and have been signed advocate for a reporting system in boiler plate or change of law



*Mission: To support and advocate for proper funding for military assets and units in the State of Michigan*

**Priorities for 2015-2016**

1. Support and advocate for a new missile unit at Fort Custer
2. Bring to the attention of Federal Representatives that sequestration is leaving the MING with a \$3.6 million deficit in their utilities budget. i.e. their lights, water, and heat budget. They will need to take from training and maintenance budgets just to keep the lights on this year.
3. Recognize and promote the MING efforts to the Triple NetZero Program



Published on *The American Legion* (<http://www.legion.org>)

## **SWS site visit to Michigan VA positive**

By The American Legion - May 9, 2014



VA Ann Arbor (Mich.) Health care System Director Robert McDivitt speaks about the facility to members of The American Legion's System Worth Saving Task Force during an April 2014 site visit. (Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion)

The VA Ann Arbor (Mich.) Health care System was the first health care organization in the U.S. to receive silver status from Planetree for significant advancement in patient-centered care. The honorable recognition is one of several ways the facility has made great strides in becoming a veterans-centered organization since 2003 — the last time The American Legion's System Worth Savings (SWS) Task Force conducted a site visit.

"Our goal is to truly become a veteran-driven organization with veterans actively involved in every facet of our organization from our governance board to health-care delivery and everything in between," said Robert McDivitt, director of Ann Arbor VA and a member of American Legion Post 46. "Our mission is to honor America's veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being."

veterans' center. Since 2011, Ann Arbor's VITAL program has enrolled 300 new veterans.

Ann Arbor VA is also using advance technology to meet the busy schedules student veterans have — telehealth is becoming available at Bowling Green (Ohio) State University. Through telehealth, a student veteran will be able to take a post-traumatic stress disorder assessment with a provider, or speak to a provider about medical care, on a secure computer network in a private room without ever leaving campus.

Along with its outreach efforts and many veteran-specific programs, providing quality care is at the forefront of Ann Arbor VA's mission. To help achieve this, the facility implemented the No Veteran Dies Alone program to offer comfort to veterans at the end of life.

Ann Arbor VA's program consists of 60 volunteers — college students, VA employees and veterans — who sit with patients at the bedside, when family members cannot, to provide companionship in their final days.

"Everyone wants to be at the birth of a child because it's a milestone, but when a veteran is dying it's a milestone in their life so it's an honor and a privilege for our volunteers to be there at the bedside," said Joan Garbarino, Ann Arbor VA's nurse care manager for the palliative care unit.

After the passing of a veteran on any unit within the facility, a U.S. flag is draped over the body and the veteran is wheeled out of the unit with family, doctors and nurses proceeding, while a recording of Taps is played and the halls are lined with patients and VA staff members saluting. "Our mission begins with three simple words: Honor America's Veterans," McDivitt said.

Jones agreed that in talking with several staff members in the facility, "you could hear the true passion for their job; you can't fake that," she said. "We appreciate the spirit of this facility to want to do more for its veterans."

**Source URL:** <http://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/222042/sws-site-visit-michigan-va-positive>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.legion.org/print/222042>



## SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

March 15-17,	1919	The American Legion is founded in Paris by members of the American Expeditionary Force.
Sept. 16,	1919	The U.S. Congress charts The American Legion.
Nov. 10-12,	1919	First national convention of The American Legion convenes in Minneapolis, Minn. Organization's Constitution and Preamble are adopted. Resolution adopted supporting the Boy Scouts of America as first youth program.
August 9,	1921	U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration, is created as a result of efforts by The American Legion.
June 15,	1923	First "Flag Code" is drafted during conference called by The American Legion. Congress adopted the code in 1942.
July 17,	1925	American Legion Baseball program is created.
June 23,	1935	First American Legion Boys State convenes in Springfield, Ill.
June 1,	1938	First American Legion National High School Oratorical Championship held in Norman, Okla.
Sept. 19-21,	1942	Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion is changed for the first and only time since it was written in 1919. The word "War" is changed to "Wars."
Dec. 15,	1943	Harry W. Colmery, past national commander of The American Legion, writes in longhand on hotel stationery the first draft of what will become the "GI Bill of Rights."
June 22,	1944	President Franklin Roosevelt signs The GI BILL into law.
May 29,	1946	A \$50,000 grant from The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary is presented to a small, struggling organization – the American Heart Association – to inaugurate a nationwide program for the study, prevention and treatment of rheumatic heart disease.
May 4,	1950	The American Legion votes to contribute funds to the field of mental health with the provision that the three major mental health organizations then in existence be amalgamated into one. They accepted this provision and the National Association for Mental Health was born.
July 9,	1954	The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is formed.
Sept. 1,	1966	The American Legion voices great concern over the fate of POWs in Vietnam.
Aug. 26,	1982	The American Legion presents a \$1million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund toward the construction of 'The Wall' in Washington, D.C.
July 21,	1983	The American Legion announces its sponsorship of an independent study of the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans. (The results of "The American Legion Columbia University Study of Vietnam-era Veterans" were presented to Congress in 1989.)
Jan. 1,	1989	The Department of Veterans Affairs begins operations. The American Legion fought for the VA to become a cabinet-level department.
Oct. 16,	1989	Longstanding objective of The American Legion is achieved as the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals begins operations.
Oct. 11,	1990	The Family Support Network of The American Legion is formed to assist the families of military personnel deployed during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.
June 15,	1991	The American Legion's first Junior Shooting Sports National Air Rifle Championships are held at the Olympic Training Center at Colorado Springs, Colo.
Aug. 24,	1994	The American Legion announces creation of the Citizens Flag Alliance to work for a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration.

## VA Burial and Memorial Benefits

The veteran who dies while on active duty or under conditions other than dishonorable is entitled by law at the minimum, to the following

- Burial in one of 131 National Cemeteries
- A standard Government headstone or ground plaque
- A United States Flag to drape the casket
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate signed by the President of the United States

## Burial in a VA Cemetery

Veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and servicemembers who die while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, as well as spouses and dependent children of Veterans and active duty servicemembers, may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits including burial in a national cemetery, a headstone to mark the grave of a Veteran interred in a private cemetery or a Presidential Memorial Certificate for loved ones. The Veteran does not have to die before a spouse or dependent child can be eligible.

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible Veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For Veterans, benefits may also include a burial flag (with case for active duty), and military funeral honors. Family members and other loved ones of deceased Veterans may request Presidential Memorial Certificates.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries, of which 72 are open for new casketed interments and 18 are open to accept only cremated remains.

## Headstones and Markers

Headstones, Markers and Medallions: Veterans, active duty servicemembers, and retired Reservists and National Guard servicemembers are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their grave at any cemetery – national, state veterans, tribal Veterans, or private. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. For eligible Veterans whose deaths occurred on or after November 1, 1990, VA may furnish a government headstone or marker even if the grave is already marked with a private one, or VA may furnish a medallion instead of a headstone or marker for Veterans' graves in private cemeteries when the grave is already marked with a privately-purchased headstone or marker. Spouses and dependent children are eligible for a government headstone or marker only if they are buried in a national, State, or tribal Veterans cemetery.

Flat markers are available in bronze, granite or marble. Upright headstones come in granite or marble. In national cemeteries, the style provided will be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. Niche markers are available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. Medallions are made of bronze and are available in three sizes: 5-inch, 3-inch, and 1 ½-inches.

To submit a claim for a headstone, marker or medallion for use in a private cemetery, mail a completed VA Form 40-1330 Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker (available at [www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330.pdf)),

## Reimbursement of Burial Expenses:

VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2,000 if the Veteran's death is service-connected. In such cases, the person who bore the Veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from VA.



## Burial Flag

Generally, VA will furnish a U.S. burial flag to memorialize Veterans who received an other than dishonorable discharge. This includes certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951. Also eligible for a burial flag are Veterans who were entitled to retired pay for service in the Reserve or National Guard, or would have been entitled if over age 60; and members or former members of the Selected Reserve who served their initial obligation, or were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.

The next of kin may apply for the flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office by completing VA Form 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes, available at [vbaw.vba.va.gov/bj/20/cio/20ss5/forms/VBA-21-2008-ARE.pdf](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bj/20/cio/20ss5/forms/VBA-21-2008-ARE.pdf). In most cases, a funeral director will help the family obtain the flag.

## Military Funeral Honors:

Upon request, DoD will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and the presenting of the United States flag and the playing of "Taps." A funeral honors detail consists of two or more uniformed members of the armed forces, with at least one member from the deceased's branch of service.

Family members should inform their funeral director if they want military funeral honors. DoD maintains a toll-free number (1-877-MIL-HONR) for use by funeral directors only to request honors. VA can help arrange honors for burials at VA national cemeteries. Veterans service organizations or volunteer groups may help provide honors. For more information, visit [www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil](http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil).



## Great Lakes National Cemetery -Holly Michigan

4200 Belford Road  
Holly, MI 48442  
Phone: (248) 328-0386  
or (866) 348-8603  
FAX: (248) 328-0612

## Fort Custer Cemetery - Augusta, Michigan

15501 Dickman Road  
Augusta, MI 49012  
Phone: (269) 731-4164  
FAX: (269) 731-2428

Readers with questions may contact the nearest national cemetery, or call 1-800-827-1000, or visit the web site at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov).

For information concerning Arlington National Cemetery call 703-695-3250 or visit [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)

### Latest Information:

Information in this tri-fold is gathered with the information available at time of printing and is condensed for space. Please visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and read the current "Benefits Booklet" on burial benefits and eligibility.

For more help please contact one of the 2 National cemeteries in Michigan or contact an American Legion Department Service Officer.

NOTE: If the deceased veteran was receiving compensation for a disability from the VA the spouse may be eligible for further benefits. Contact the number below to for help.



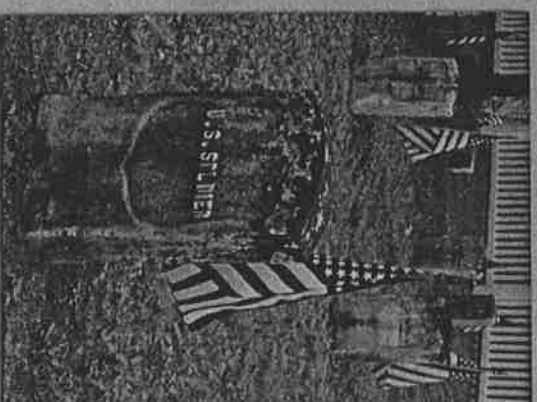
### WHAT TO DO BEFORE A VETERAN DIES

The American Legion Department of Michigan

Veteran Service Office  
477 Michigan Ave, Room 1210  
Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: 313-964-6640  
Fax: 313-964-5697

### WHAT TO DO BEFORE A VETERAN DIES



### Important Records:

- The Veteran's discharge certificate (DD-214)
- VA documents, if any, indicating a VA Claim number
- A copy of ALL marriage and divorce decrees (if any)
- Family Insurance policies and any VA Insurance policies including beneficiary designations
- Address and Phone number of the local American Legion Service Officer



# WHY I BELONG

TO

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

### OUR COUNTRY

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.
- To honor my forefather's service to our country.
- To perpetuate (encourage) the true spirit and positive view toward Americanism.
- To help our children of (and into) tomorrow.
- To assist teaching all Americans of all ages what it took to make our country great.
- To keep freedom alive.
- To reinstate our loyalty and patriotism and beliefs in America.
- To help our country prepare for the future through the ideals established by our forefathers.
- To provide various services to the community, state and nation.
- To protect our nation's flag and to educate youth on flag etiquette.

### OUR FAMILY

- To support The American Legion and its programs.
- To respect our parent organization.
- To give back, for what The American Legion has done for my family and me.
- To make our support of The American Legion Family as strong as possible.
- To help teach our youth the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.
- To unite with others who belong to the organization with a shared interest.
- To learn how to conduct a meeting using Roberts Rules of Order.
- To be a part of The American Legion Family, and to help preserve it.
- To help the Sons of The American Legion become a better organization for all those who belong and for all who are helped through the Sons of The American Legion programs.
- To help prepare our youth in their ability to succeed.

### OUR VETERANS

- To help care for all veterans who served our nation by assisting the VA&R and the VAWS programs.
- To impact my community in a positive way, by helping and assisting veterans, and supporting various American Legion programs.
- To provide assistance to all veterans, especially those in need of care.
- To help assure that our veterans, POWs and MIA's from all wars will never be forgotten.
- To show pride for those who served this country to keep us free.
- For God and country, and to support our veterans and their families.
- To show the pride we take knowing our contributions to The American Legion and its charitable programs are making a difference for the youth of America.
- To help those in need.





For information on  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
please contact:

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
[www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)

## Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Initial) (Last) (Initial) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran through whom eligibility is established \_\_\_\_\_

(a) Is a member in good standing of Post No \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. of \_\_\_\_\_

OR (b) Is a deceased veteran who served honorably from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as annual membership dues.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Post Adjutant)

00-001

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Sons of The American Legion (SAL) is a program of The American Legion established in 1933 in Portland, Ore. Since then, the Sons of The American Legion has assisted The American Legion with its programs and activities. In 2013, Sons of The American Legion attained an all-time high membership of 356,170 members nationally. The largest detachment (state level) has more than 59,000 members. There are trophies and awards given to detachments and squadrons for the largest membership, and the largest increase in membership.

Sons of The American Legion is more than just membership. Sons of The American Legion, on all levels, have worked together with The American Legion to promote children and youth programs, including the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, in which the Sons of The American Legion has raised over \$453,000 in 2013. Since 1988, the Sons of The American Legion has raised over \$5.4 million for the CWT.

Sons of The American Legion members have donated over 320,000 volunteer hours in veterans hospitals throughout the country and raised over \$1.1 million that has gone directly to the VA hospitals and VA homes for a variety of items including TVs, radios, medical equipment and clothes for the patients.

Sons of The American Legion continues to provide services to those in need in the local communities, through programs that include fundraising events.

The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary form the Legion Family. A family with a total membership of nearly 3.6 million members.

Sons of The American Legion is assisting The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance in their efforts to secure a constitutional amendment to protect the flag of the United States from desecration.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

[www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

# WHY I BELONG



Helping veterans, families  
and communities



# AMERICAN LEGION CHARITIES

*American Legion Charities was launched as a 501(c)3 nonprofit trust in 2010 to allow Legion Family members and friends to make a general donation to The American Legion, or choose a specific program to support. Donors can now choose to contribute specific dollar amounts to more than one American Legion program.*

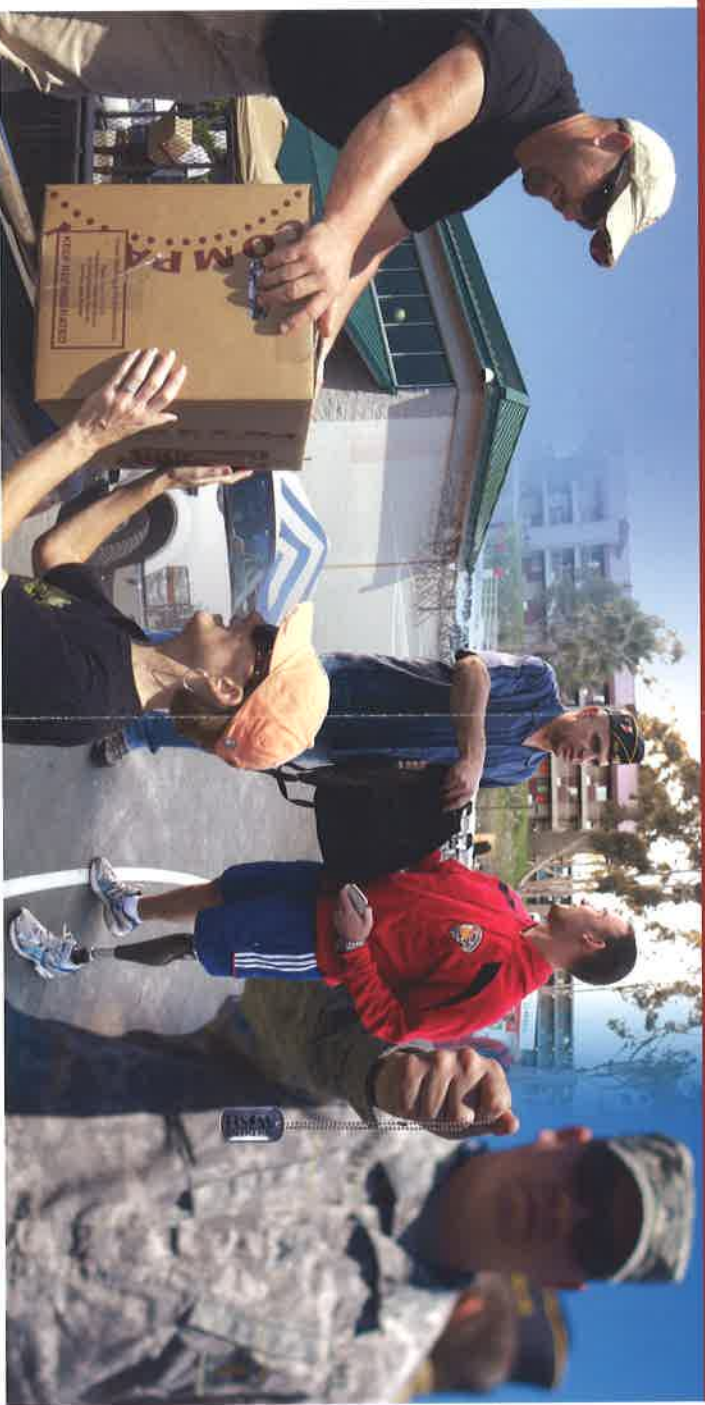
**To make a donation, please visit  
[www.legion.org/donate](http://www.legion.org/donate)**

## **National Emergency Fund**

The National Emergency Fund directs immediate cash grants to Legionnaires who are recovering from natural disasters. Legion posts are also eligible for emergency assistance.

## **Endowment Fund**

Income from the Endowment Fund provides resources for veterans in need. It funds Temporary Financial Assistance grants to veterans with children in need and Department Service Officer Schools so service officers can provide quality assistance to veterans.



## **Legacy Scholarship Fund**

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund provides scholarship money for children whose parents have died on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. One hundred percent of all donations go directly into the fund to be used for scholarships.

## **Child Welfare Foundation**

The Child Welfare Foundation, created by The American Legion, has operated as a separate 501(c)3 nonprofit organization since 1954. It awards grants to other nonprofit organizations to educate the public about the needs of children across the nation.

## **Operation Comfort Warriors**

One hundred percent of donations to Operation Comfort Warriors are used to purchase rehabilitation and recreational items for wounded military personnel in DoD facilities.

## **Soldier's Wish**

Soldier's Wish identifies the unmet needs of U.S. military personnel, veterans and their families, and provides the necessary resources to meet those needs.



## AMERICAN LEGION CHARITIES



### To donate:

Donations can be made to American Legion Charities, one specific program or multiple programs. To contribute:

Go online to:

[www.legion.org/donate](http://www.legion.org/donate)

Mail a check to American Legion  
Charities

P.O. Box 361626  
Indianapolis, IN 46236

For questions, call (317) 860-3009.



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

P.O. Box 361626  
Indianapolis, IN 46236  
(317) 860-3009

[www.legion.org/donate](http://www.legion.org/donate)

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF: \$

FULL NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

PHONE

EMAIL

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE  
YOUR DONATION TO GO

\$ Endowment Fund

\$ Child Welfare Foundation

\$ Soldier's Wish

\$ Operation Comfort Warriors

\$ Legacy Scholarship Fund

### CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

☐ CHECK (Payable to American Legion Charities) ☐ CREDIT CARD (fill out information below)

PAYMENT INFORMATION - No cash, please

NAME ON CARD

ACCOUNT#

CARD TYPE

VISA

MasterCard

DISCOVER

AMERICAN EXPRESS

EXPIRATION DATE

AMOUNT TO CHARGE

SIGNATURE (NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED)





# THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

(Membership ID# Former Member) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email) \_\_\_\_\_ (Post #) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

## Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWI (4/6/17-11/11/18)   | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII (12/7/41-12/31/46)   | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea (6/25/50-1/31/55)   | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam (2/28/61-5/7/75)  | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada (8/24/82-7/31/84)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama (12/20/89-1/31/90)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (12/7/41-12/31/46 - Only Eligibility) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War/War on Terrorism (8/2/90 until cessation of hostilities) |   |

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signed By Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current department address, go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).**

ALA 12/2013



## DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Received From \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues  
Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran through whom eligibility is established \_\_\_\_\_

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ Department of \_\_\_\_\_

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and apply for membership.

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Transmit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ annual membership dues

Signed By Applicant (or Parent) \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility certified by \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).**

ALA 12/2013



## DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Received From \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues  
Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Department of \_\_\_\_\_



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (M.I.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # and Location \_\_\_\_\_

/ / ☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and over  
Date of Birth (Required)

Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed application to American Legion Auxiliary department/state headquarters.**

Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.

For current department address go to: [www.ALAforVeterans.org/contact/state\\_headquarters](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/contact/state_headquarters).

Dues include a yearly non-refundable allocation of \$3.40 for American Legion Auxiliary magazine.

**Membership pending approval of application.**

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible through / name of veteran (if living, must be American Legion member) ☐ Living ☐ Deceased

American Legion Member ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's American Legion Post Name \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

## Veteran served: (check all that apply)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWI (4/6/17-11/11/18)               | <input type="checkbox"/> WWII (12/7/41-12/31/46)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (12/7/41-12/31/46) | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea (6/25/50-1/31/55)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam (2/28/61-5/7/75)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada (8/24/82-7/31/84)                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama (12/20/89-1/31/90)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War/War on Terrorism (8/2/90 until cessation of hostilities) |

## Applicant's relationship to the veteran:

- |                                      |  |  |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wife          | <input type="checkbox"/> Daughter            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother | <input type="checkbox"/> Granddaughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Great-granddaughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Self   |

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification \_\_\_\_\_

ALA 12/2013

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Received From \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues  
Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Visit us online at [www.ALforVeterans.org](http://www.ALforVeterans.org)

*In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.*

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSION:**



World's largest women's patriotic service organization

**I am interested in learning more about:**

- ☐ Paid Up For Life Membership
- ☐ Volunteering for Veterans
- ☐ Education Activities
- ☐ Youth Activities
- ☐ Scholarships
- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Auxiliary Emergency Fund
- ☐ Local Unit Activities
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Member Discounts and Services
- ☐ Activities to Support Active-Duty Military and Families
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit/Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact the following individual(s) about volunteering or joining the American Legion Auxiliary:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**There are many opportunities for involvement in the American Legion Auxiliary. Help us get you connected!**

**JOIN THE LEGION FAMILY!**

For nearly a century, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion have worked steadfastly, side by side, promoting patriotism and national security while supporting youth and advocating for veterans and active-duty military personnel and families.

The Legion Family also includes American Legion Riders ([www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders)). A Legion Rider must be a member of The American Legion or Auxiliary in order to join a chapter at a local post.

While members of The American Legion Family are individually unique, collectively we are a multi-million member powerhouse of caring advocates dedicated to service. You'll find that getting connected to The American Legion Family is one of the best decisions you'll ever make. Please use the enclosed applications to join today.

For details on The American Legion Family, contact:

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 630-1321  
[la@legion.org](mailto:la@legion.org)  
[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

8945 N. Meridian, St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46260  
(317) 569-4500  
[alahq@ALforVeterans.org](mailto:alahq@ALforVeterans.org)  
[www.ALforVeterans.org](http://www.ALforVeterans.org)



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 630-1205  
[sal@legion.org](mailto:sal@legion.org)  
[www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)

Follow The American Legion online:

[www.legion.org/facebook](http://www.legion.org/facebook)  
[twitter.com/AmericanLegion](http://twitter.com/AmericanLegion)



**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**

**Join The American Legion Family**



**CHILDREN OF VETERANS**

**The Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)** program of the National Commission on Children & Youth distributes hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to assist children across the country as a direct result of the interest earned from The American Legion Endowment Fund.

Created in 1925 as a form of direct aid to veterans' minor children, the TFA program exists to help these children maintain basic needs including shelter, utilities, clothing, food and medical care, when the parents or guardians of the minor child or children are unable to do so. The TFA program remains a unique program in the field of social work today and would not be able to continue without the support of The American Legion Endowment Fund.

For more information on the Temporary Financial Assistance Program contact:

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**National Commission on Children & Youth**  
 P.O. Box 1055  
 Indianapolis, IN 46206  
 (317) 630-1323

**VETERANS**

The American Legion Endowment Fund also distributes funds to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Division to benefit and fund the following programs:

**Department Service Officer (DSO) Schools.**

Every year, the VA&R Division holds two training schools to teach DSOs the latest changes in Department of Veteran Affairs and the United States Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims regulations, procedures and laws to ensure they provide the best service to the veterans they assist.

**The American Legion and National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) Internship Program.**

This program provides training for American Legion staff assigned to the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) and to Department Service Officers on temporary assignment to the BVA.

**Memorandum of Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP).**

This agreement provides for training of American Legion Service Officers and for legal representation before Federal Courts on veterans' and claimants' appeals considered to be of a precedent-setting nature. It also finances the NVLSP's consultation and advisory opinions to The American Legion on pending legislation before Congress involving programs and benefits administered through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For more information on VA&R programs contact:

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division**  
 1608 K Street, NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20006  
 (202) 263-2983

**THE AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND DONATION FORM**

YES, I want to help veterans and their children. Enclosed is my donation of: \$

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

If you would like your donation to be in memory or in honor of someone, please complete the following:

☐ In Memory of:

☐ In Honor of:

Name

Please notify the following of my contribution:

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Mail this form and your gift to:

The American Legion Endowment Fund  
 P.O. Box 1055  
 Indianapolis, IN 46206

All donations and gifts to The American Legion Endowment Fund will be acknowledged in writing. Contributions are tax-deductible. Check with your tax advisor for more information.





## A LEGACY OF SERVICE

In 1925, World War I had been over for six years, but for veterans and their widows and children, the years had been a continuing struggle to adjust to the war's aftermath. The members of The American Legion, aware of the grave responsibilities entrusted to them by those who had served, knew the time had come to take action.

More than 900,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members, and other American citizens joined the campaign, raising nearly \$5 million and establishing The American Legion Endowment Fund.

Since those early days, over \$30 million have been distributed to disabled veterans and children of those who served our great nation.

Your gifts and donations go into a trust that is administered by The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation. The corporation, whose members are selected by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, takes great care to ensure that these gifts are wisely invested.

Income from fund investments is then passed on to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Children & Youth programs of The American Legion National Organization to support national, state, and local programs for veterans and children.

Help us continue this proud tradition of service to veterans and their children with a contribution to The American Legion Endowment Fund. As a 501 (c) (3) organization, your contributions are tax-deductible.



## THE AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS

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## THE AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND

P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

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## THE AMERICAN LEGION

## ENDOWMENT FUND



DEDICATED TO SERVING  
VETERANS AND THEIR CHILDREN

# THE AMERICAN LEGION | HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## Winners receive scholarships

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists of the national contest as follows: **1st place: \$18,000; 2nd place: \$16,000; 3rd place: \$14,000.** Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the national contest will receive a **\$1,500 scholarship**. Each first-round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional **\$1,500 scholarship** to pursue education beyond high school.

The scholarships awarded by the national organization of The American Legion may be used to attend any college or university in the United States.

## Each department (state) is represented

Each department of The American Legion may certify one contestant into the national contest. If for any reason the department winner is unable to compete in the national contest, the department first runner-up may be substituted following approval by The American Legion's National Americanism Commission.

For information about the oratorical contest in your state, contact your local American Legion post or state headquarters. A listing of state headquarters' addresses and phone numbers can be found on the Legion website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

## Who is eligible to participate?

You are eligible to participate in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program if you are a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States. Further, all contestants must be bona fide students under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest



and must be enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) in which the curriculum of the school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

## Contestants address Constitution topics

**The prepared oration.** The subject to be used for the prepared oration must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same subject and oration used in the department contest must be used in the national contest.

The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

**Assigned topic.** The purpose of the assigned topic is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States.

The assigned topic must take no less than three minutes and must not exceed five minutes for time of delivery. Each year, the list of assigned topics will be made available prior to the contest and posted on the Legion website at [www.legion.org/oratorical/topics](http://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics).

## Independent judges select winners

The judges are an integral part of the contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully as the decision of the judges is final and must be reached without bias. Five judges are used in the process, which ultimately results in the selection of a national champion each year.



## *This contest is for students who* **Welcome Learning**

For the student who looks for an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship funds, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. Students learn about our country's Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for more than 75 years.



*"In 1789, our founders created the beautiful, concise Constitution on the foundation of the people—tapping into the powerful resource of freedom. Two-hundred and twenty-three years later the time has come to tap into that resource again—to use our powerful freedom to maintain our Constitution. If we are 'the land of the free' and 'the home of the brave,' we must be the courageous defenders of the free."*

- Rebecca Frazer, Indiana  
2012 National Champion

The main purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

For more information on The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, look on the Legion website at [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical), or contact the following:

- For dates, sites and deadline information concerning local, district and state level competition, individuals should contact their local American Legion post or their respective state headquarters office of The American Legion.

- For information concerning the national contest, contact:  
The Americanism Division  
The American Legion  
PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 630-1204  
[oratorical@legion.org](mailto:oratorical@legion.org)



### THE AMERICAN LEGION

P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 630-1204

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

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### THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM "A Constitutional Speech Contest"



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